

Highlights

The following is a summary and analysis of the terrorist attacks and counter-terrorism operations that occurred during August 2013, as researched and recorded by the ICT Database Team. Among the most important events occurring this August:

- On 4 August, the US closed 21 of its embassies in the Middle East and North Africa due to intelligence predicting an Al-Qaeda attack. Following the shutdown, Canada closed its embassy in Bangladesh and Britain, France and Germany closed their embassies in Yemen. Several days later, on 6 August, it was reported that the impetus for the closures came from an intercepted secret message between Al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahri and Nasser al-Wahishi, the emir of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), concerning plans for a major terrorist attack. Also in this context, the US State Department issued a worldwide travel warning to American citizens during August. Similarly, Interpol issued a global security alert following a series of Al-Qaeda-linked prison breakouts in July 2013.
- On 5 August, eight people were killed and 40 others were injured in a car bombing in Cotabato City, Philippines. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but authorities blamed the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).
- On 13 August, suspected Boko Haram militants killed 44 worshipers in a mosque and injured 26 others in Konduga town, Nigeria. A second attack killed an additional 12 people.
- On 19 August, suspected Al-Qaeda militants killed 25 off-duty policemen and wounded two others in the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt.
- On 20 August, security forces in Quetta, Pakistan arrested 10 people and seized 100 tons of bomb-making materials in a raid on a warehouse that was being used to store and assemble explosives. Police were led to the warehouse by two men whom they arrested for driving a truck carrying 15 tons of potassium chlorate.
- On 22 August, four rockets were fired from Lebanon into Israel. They landed in the vicinity of Nahariya, where they caused some damage but no casualties. Also, a rocket fell near Acre, damaging several houses. The Abdullah Azzam Brigades, an Al-Qaeda-inspired group based in Lebanon, claimed responsibility for the attack (for more on this group, see page 14).
- On 24 August, 47 people were killed and 500 others were injured when bombs at two mosques in Tripoli, Lebanon exploded within minutes of each other after Friday prayers. This was the first time that mosques were targeted in Lebanon in recent months.
- On 29 August, Indian Mujahedin (IM) founder Yasin Bhatkal was arrested at Raxaul, near the border with Nepal, after previously evading arrest. He has been linked to

several high-profile terrorism cases, including German Bakery blasts in Pune, where he was allegedly captured on CCTV footage.

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Europe

On 19 August, German media reported that Al-Qaeda was plotting to attack Europe's high-speed railways. The Germany newspaper *Bild* suggested that Al-Qaeda might target trains and tunnels, or sabotage railway tracks or the electric cabling serving them. The *Bild* report was based on intelligence received through an intercepted conference call between senior Al-Qaeda leaders (see also the section on the US, below).¹ *Bild* cited its source as the US National Security Agency (NSA). German authorities addressed the threat with discrete measures, such as deploying plain-clothes police officers at key train stations and on along main railway routes.²

Africa

Nigeria

On 13 August, suspected Boko Haram militants killed 44 worshipers in a mosque and injured 26 others in Konduga town, 35 kilometers outside Maiduguri. The attack took place during dawn [fajr] prayers. The attackers wore military uniforms, which authorities suspect were stolen during a recent raid on a barracks.³ Authorities believe the attack was motivated by revenge against the citizen vigilante groups that had formed to help Nigeria's military fight Boko Haram.⁴ After responding to the attack in Konduga, security forces encountered another attack in Ngom village, five kilometers outside Maiduguri. Twelve civilians were killed in that attack. Subsequently, Boko Haram spokesman Abubakar Shekau released a video in which he claimed responsibility for both attacks and taunted the leaders of the US, France and Israel.⁵

On 14 August, Nigeria's military reported having killed Momodu Bama (aka Abu Saad), Boko Haram's deputy emir. According to Nigeria Defense Headquarters spokesman General Olukolade, Bama was one of the most-wanted militant commanders; he had had a \$155,000 bounty on his head. Bama, reputedly an expert in manning anti-aircraft guns, was killed during a battle with security forces in Borno State. Seventeen militants were killed along with him, and 24 others were arrested.⁶

¹ News 24, "Al Qaeda is plotting attacks on Europe's high-speed rail network, German newspaper Bild reported on Monday, citing a leaked National Security Agency (NSA) report.", 19 August 2013.

² AFP, "Al Qaeda Targeting European Trains? Report Claims Terror Group Plotting Against Rail Network", 19 August 2013.

³ BBC, "Nigeria unrest: 'Boko Haram' gunmen kill 44 at mosque", 14 August 2013.

⁴ AFP, "Nigerian gunmen kill at least 44 in mosque raid after morning prayers", 13 August 2013.

⁵ Anadolu Agency, "60 feared dead in Nigeria after fresh Boko Haram attacks", 13 August 2013.

⁶ BBC, "Nigerian troops 'kill Boko Haram commander Momodu Bama'", 14 August 2013.

Morocco

On 16 August, Morocco's Interior Ministry announced that a terrorist cell with links to Al-Qaeda affiliates in North Africa and Syria had been dismantled. The Interior Ministry stated that the cell had been organized by a very prominent contributor to jihadist Web sites, who had been tasked with recruiting for Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Among those being recruited were Moroccans with ties to Al-Qaeda militants in Syria.⁷ Authorities accused the cell of plotting to carry out a targeted terrorist operation, and of incitement to sabotage state institutions.⁸

Tunisia

On 4 August, two militants were killed and five others were arrested in El Ouardia.⁹ Witnesses reported an exchange of gunfire between police units and an armed terrorist group in a residential area. One member of the counter-terrorism squad was slightly injured in the operation. The police raid was a response to a recent surge in Islamist militant attacks. Police also arrested several militants in the town of Sbitla. Similarly, Tunisian security forces dismantled a bomb found near the home of a military colonel in Tunis. In a separate incident near Tunis, a man accidentally blew himself up while preparing a bomb. Another man in a nearby suburb blew off his own hand as he prepared an explosive device. He was arrested and taken to hospital.¹⁰

On 27 August, Tunisia designated the Ansar Al-Sharia movement a terrorist group, blaming it for the killing of two secular politicians: Chokri Belaid and Mohamed Brahmi. Prime Minister Ali Larayedh said that the decision to classify the group as a terrorist organization was based on confessions by detained members of involvement in local attacks, as well as on seized evidence.¹¹ Ansar Al-Sharia emerged after the 2011 Arab Spring revolution; it seeks the implementation of Islamic law [shari'a] across Tunisia. Authorities charged the group with supporting an armed jihadist cell in the remote Mount Chaambi region along the Algerian border. Seif Allah ibn Hussein (aka Abu Iyadh), the group's leader, is currently in hiding after an arrest warrant was issued for him. He is alleged to have incited an attack on the US embassy in Tunis in September 2012, which killed four people.¹²

⁷ AP, "Morocco says cell with Al-Qaida links dismantled", 16 August 2013.

⁸ AFP, "Morocco busts Qaeda-linked 'terrorist' cell", 16 August 2013.

⁹ AP, "Tunisian police says a suspected terrorist killed in raid, another wounded after firefight", 4 August 2013.

¹⁰ AFP, "Bomb scares in Tunisia as forces attack militants", 4 August 2013.

¹¹ Mahgrebia, "Tunisia declares Ansar al-Sharia terrorist group", 28 August 2013.

¹² BBC, "Tunisia declares Ansar al-Sharia a terrorist group", 27 August 2013.

Middle East

Bahrain

On 4 August, a car bomb composed of two gas cylinders exploded near a recreational area in Budaiya. There were no casualties, perhaps because only one of the cylinders exploded. The attack was condemned by the main Bahraini Shi'ite opposition party, Al Wefaq. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.¹³

On 29 August, a remotely-detonated car bomb injured four policemen as their patrol passed by a Shi'ite village near Manama, the capital. No group claimed responsibility for the attack. Police report that sporadic violence has increased in Bahrain since local Shi'ites began pro-democracy protests in 2011.¹⁴

Egypt

On 19 August, suspected Al-Qaeda militants ambushed two mini-buses carrying off-duty policemen in the northern Sinai Peninsula, near Rafah, killing 25 policemen and wounding two others. The militants forced the two vehicles to stop, ordered to exit them and lie on the ground, and then killed them, execution-style.¹⁵ The alleged mastermind of the attack, Adel Mohammed (aka Adel Habara), was arrested by Egyptian security forces in the Sinai Peninsula on 31 August. Earlier, Habara had been sentenced to death *in absentia* for killing soldiers in the Nile Delta. Three additional militants were also arrested on suspicion of involvement in the attack.¹⁶

Iraq

On 6 August, a series of bombings in and around Baghdad killed 41 people and wounded 100 others.¹⁷ Authorities said the worst attack occurred when a car bomb exploded near a market in Baghdad's southeastern suburb of Nahrwan. That attack killed six people and wounded 17 others. Several hours later, a car bomb exploded at a market in Karradah, killing five people and wounding 18 more. That night, a car bomb exploded near a cafe in the northeastern suburb of Husseinayah, killing five people and wounding 15 others. Minutes later, yet another car bomb exploded in Husseinayah, killing three

¹³ AFP, "Car bomb explodes in Bahrain", 4 August 2013.

¹⁴ AFP, "Car bomb wounds four Bahrain policemen", 29 August 2013.

¹⁵ BBC, "Egyptian police killed in Sinai ambush at Rafah", 19 August 2013.

¹⁶ AP, "Egypt security forces arrest top Sinai militant", 31 August 2013.

¹⁷ BBC, "Iraq violence: Car bombs in and around Baghdad kill 41", 6 August 2013.

people and wounding 10 others. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq (also referred to as the Islamic State of Iraq).¹⁸

On 10 August, 60 people were killed and nearly 300 others were wounded in a series of bomb attacks in Iraq. The attacks occurred during Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. The majority of the attacks occurred in Baghdad, which was hit by apparently coordinated car bombings near markets, cafes and restaurants. One suicide car bomber killed 10 people in Tuz Khurmato; Amil, Abu Dashir, Khadhimiya, Baiyaa, Shaab, Husseiniya, Dora, Karbala, Nasiriya and Kirkuk were also hit.¹⁹ No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda in Iraq.²⁰

On 23 August, 28 people were killed and 50 others were wounded in a suicide bombing in Baghdad.²¹ Authorities said a man wearing an explosive vest blew himself up in a crowded park in the Al-Qahira neighborhood. The majority of the casualties were children and women.²² Other bombs detonated near Sunni mosques in two neighborhoods in Baghdad, killing three people and wounding 18 others.²³

On 25 August, a series of bomb attacks across Iraq killed 48 people and wounded 89 others.²⁴ The worst-affected cities were Baghdad and Baquba, which were hit by numerous blasts. In Baquba four explosions were reported, two of which were said to have targeted a Shi'ite wedding. Several explosions, including a car bombing and a roadside bomb, were reported in Baghdad; they killed nine people. In Balad, four people were killed when a car bomb exploded as a local judge drove past. He and several others were wounded. Five soldiers were killed when their vehicle was ambushed near Mosul.²⁵

On 28 August, a series of bombings and other attacks across Baghdad killed 71 people and injured 200 others.²⁶ The explosions, which occurred minutes apart at parking lots, outdoor markets and restaurants in predominantly Shi'ite neighborhoods of Baghdad, targeted residents who were out shopping or on their way to work. The worst attack occurred in the neighborhood of Kazimiyah, which is home to a prominent, gold-domed Shi'ite shrine: Two bombs exploded in the shrine parking lot, and then a suicide car

¹⁸ AP, "Car bombs kill 36 people in Iraq", 6 August 2013.

¹⁹ BBC, "Iraq unrest: Eid al-Fitr bomb attacks kill dozens", 11 August 2013.

²⁰ Reuters, "Car bombs kill nearly 80 in Iraq, target Eid festivities", 11 August 2013.

²¹ CNN, "Iraq suicide bomber kills at least 28 people", 23 August 2013.

²² BBC, "Suicide bomb attack at north Baghdad park", 23 August 2013.

²³ RT, "Suicide bombing in Baghdad, attacks across Iraq kill 32", 23 August 2013.

²⁴ AFP, "Iraq attacks including Baghdad blasts kill 48", 25 August 2013.

²⁵ BBC, "Iraq violence: Baghdad and Baquba hit by bomb attacks", 25 August 2013.

²⁶ Reuters, "Baghdad bomb attacks kill 71, wound 201 as cars explode across city", 28 August 2013.

bomb targeted the rescue workers who gathered at the scene. Police said a total of 10 people were killed and 27 were wounded in the attack. The sprawling slums of Sadr City and Jamila, and the neighborhoods of Shaab, Shula, and Mahmoudiyah were also attacked. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the attacks bore the hallmark of Al-Qaeda in Iraq.²⁷

On 29 August, 16 people were killed and 26 others were injured when a car bomb exploded at 6:45 a.m. as shoppers were visiting the Mraydi fruit and vegetable market in Samarra. No group took responsibility for the attack, but authorities blamed Al-Qaeda.²⁸

Israel and the West Bank

On 15 August, the Shoura Council of the Mujahideen took responsibility for firing a rocket from the Sinai Peninsula at Eilat, calling it retaliation for the killing of four militants in the Sinai. The rocket was intercepted by an Iron Dome anti-missile battery, marking the first time that system intercepted a rocket over Eilat.²⁹ Authorities said the attack caused no damage or casualties.³⁰

On 22 August, multiple rockets were fired from Lebanon into Israel, setting off a "red alert" siren in the cities of Nahariya, Acre, Kiryat Shmona and Carmiel. There were no casualties, but damage was caused to several homes in the vicinity of Nahariya and Acre.³¹ An Israeli Iron Dome battery intercepted one of the rockets. The specific location of the rocket falls was not publicized, as military censors wish to avoid helping Lebanese terrorist cells to calibrate their coordinates in Israel for future attacks. The Abdullah Azzam Brigades (AAB), an Al-Qaeda-inspired group based in Lebanon, claimed responsibility for the attack.³² The group used on the Twitter account of Sirajuddin Zurayqat, a prominent Islamist militant, to tweet its "prowess": According to Zurayqat, the rockets can travel 40 kilometers (25 miles), putting Haifa, Israel's third-largest city, within range.³³ On 23 August, the Israel Air Force (IAF) retaliated against targets south of Beirut.³⁴

**For more information about the
Abdullah Azzam Brigades, see
page 15**

²⁷ AP, "Baghdad bomb attacks leave scores dead", 28 August 2013.

²⁸ BBC, "Iraq unrest: Samarra car bomb 'kills 16' at city market", 29 August 2013.

²⁹ Ynet, "Iron Dome intercepts Eilat-bound rocket", 11 August 2013.

³⁰ Reuters, "Islamist group claims rocket fire on Eilat, says no Israeli city is safe", 13 August 2013.

³¹ Jerusalem Post, "4 Katyusha rockets fired from Lebanon at western Galilee", 22 August 2013.

³² Long War Journal, "Abdullah Azzam Brigades claims responsibility for rocket attack on Israel", 27 August 2013.

³³ Times of Israel, "Four rockets fired into north by al-Qaeda-inspired group", 22 August 2013.

³⁴ Jerusalem Post, "4 Katyusha rockets fired from Lebanon at western Galilee", 22 August 2013.

Lebanon

On 15 August, a powerful car bomb exploded on a busy shopping street in a Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut, killing 16 people and injuring approximately 200 others.³⁵ Many cars were damaged, as were buildings in the densely populated area where the explosion occurred.³⁶ The explosion targeted a facility used by Hezbollah, which is located between the Bir El-Abed and Roueiss neighborhoods – an area regarded as the center of Hezbollah operations in Beirut. According to authorities, Hezbollah uses the area as a staging ground for its Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah’s speeches.³⁷ The Brigades of Aisha, a previously unknown Sunni Islamist group, took responsibility for the attack, and threatened more operations against Hezbollah.³⁸ Shortly after the attack, the Brigades of Aisha released a video online showing three masked men, two of them holding rifles, in front of a white flag inscribed with the Islamic profession of faith.³⁹

On 24 August, 47 people were killed and 500 others were injured when bombs placed outside two mosques in Tripoli exploded at the end of Friday prayers – and within minutes of each other.⁴⁰ The first bomb exploded outside the Al-Taqwa Mosque, home of Salafist preacher Sheikh Salem al-Rafei, who has urged Sunni Muslims to join jihad in Syria. He was unhurt in the attack. The second bomb exploded near the Al-Salam mosque, leaving a six-foot-deep crater in the asphalt and damaging nearby buildings. Both mosques are located in an affluent neighborhood that is home to moderate businessmen and politicians. The twin explosions caused major damage to the structure of the mosques.⁴¹ In the commotion following the explosions, bearded gunmen took to the streets, firing in the air, attacking soldiers and sealing off the bomb site. Later, they roamed the streets in SUVs, their weapons sticking out of the windows.⁴² The attacks reportedly targeted two preachers known for their opposition to the Syrian government and Hezbollah.⁴³ No group claimed responsibility for the attacks.⁴⁴ Hezbollah denied any involvement and condemned the attacks.⁴⁵ On 30 August, two clerics were charged in connection with the bombings. Sheikhs Hashem Minkara and Ahmad Gharib, along with three other men, were accused of forming an armed cell to attack government institutions. The clerics are thought to have close ties to a Sunni group linked to Syria.

³⁵ BBC, “Deadly Lebanon blast in Beirut stronghold of Hezbollah”, 15 August 2013.

³⁶ Washington Post, “Beirut car bomb kills at least 21”, 15 August 2013.

³⁷ Al-Jazeera, “Car bombing rocks Hezbollah bastion in Beirut”, 16 August 2013.

³⁸ Reuters, “Car bomb kills 20 in Hezbollah’s Beirut stronghold”, 15 August 2013.

³⁹ Al-Jazeera, “Car bombing rocks Hezbollah bastion in Beirut”, 16 August 2013.

⁴⁰ Reuters, “Al-Qaida vows to strike at Hezbollah for Lebanon bombings”, 24 August 2013.

⁴¹ Washington Post, “Two Lebanese Mosques Bombed, Killing Dozens”, 24 August 2013.

⁴² CNN, “Twin bombings rock mosques in Tripoli, Lebanon”, 23 August 2013.

⁴³ CSM, “Suspect arrested in Lebanon double bombing, death toll at least 47”, 23 August 2013.

⁴⁴ Washington Post, “Two Lebanese Mosques Bombed, Killing Dozens”, 24 August 2013.

⁴⁵ AP, “Lebanon Explosions: Two Blasts Hit Tripoli”, 24 August 2013.

In addition, Sheikh Minkara is alleged to have known about the Tripoli attacks and not alerted police. Two Syrians, including an army officer, were charged *in absentia* for actually placing the bombs outside the mosques.⁴⁶

Saudi Arabia

On 9 August, two men suspected of planning suicide attacks were arrested. According to the authorities, one of the men is from Chad and the other is from Yemen; the Chadian had been previously been deported from Saudi Arabia, and was carrying a counterfeit passport when he was arrested.⁴⁷ Major General Mansour al-Turki, spokesman for the Saudi Arabian Ministry of the Interior, reported that the suspects had been caught discussing planned suicide terrorist attacks, although details of the attacks could not be ascertained. At the time of their arrest, the suspects had computers, electronic equipment and cell phones in their possession. They apparently communicated through coded messages and social media about the imminent attacks.⁴⁸

Syria

On 6 August, a car bomb detonated in Jaramana, a Christian-Druze area on the southeastern outskirts of Damascus, killing 18 people and wounding 56 others. The explosion caused heavy damage and set dozens of cars alight. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁴⁹

On 23 August a suicide bomber detonated his explosives at the Kabo Grillo Restaurant in Aleppo,⁵⁰ killing nine people and injuring 20 more.⁵¹ Among the casualties were Hasan Mhanna, a Syrian journalist for the pro-government Al-Ekhbaria TV, and high school students who had been attending a graduation party.⁵²

On 24 August, a car bomb killed Anas Abdul-Razzaq Na'em, the governor of Hama Province, and one other civilian.⁵³ The explosion, which also injured several people, occurred as Na'em was being driven home in a convoy. Na'em was appointed governor

⁴⁶ BBC, "Lebanese clerics charged over deadly Tripoli bombings", 30 August 2013.

⁴⁷ Washington Post, "Saudi police arrest 2 on ties to al Qaeda suicide plot", 9 August 2013.

⁴⁸ CNN, "Saudi Arabia arrests 2 on suspicion of planning suicide attacks", 9 August 2013.

⁴⁹ Haaretz, "Blast near Damascus kills 18, while key airport reportedly falls to rebels", 6 August 2013.

⁵⁰ AP, "Suicide bombing in Aleppo, clashes in Damascus, activists say", 23 August 2013.

⁵¹ Bloomberg, "Suicide Bomber Kills Eight at Restaurant in Aleppo", 23 August 2013.

⁵² AKI, "Syria: TV journalist killed in Aleppo restaurant suicide blast", 23 August 2013.

⁵³ AP, "Car bomb kills governor of central Syrian province of Hama", 25 August 2013.

in July 2011, four months after the beginning of the revolt against President Bashar al-Assad's regime.⁵⁴

Yemen

On 7 August, authorities in Yemen foiled an Al-Qaeda plot to blow up oil pipelines and seize two of the country's main ports. Yemeni security officials did not say how the plot was thwarted. According to government spokesman Rajeh Badi, had the plot succeeded, many Al-Qaeda operatives, disguised as Yemeni Army soldiers, would have taken control of the Canadian-run Mina Al-Dhaba oil terminal; their intention was to kill or kidnap foreign workers.⁵⁵ It was unclear whether this plot was among the threats that caused the US and various European countries to close their embassies throughout the Middle East. It was also unclear with the recent spate of suspected US drone strikes, described in the next item, was related to this plot.⁵⁶

On 9 August, 14 suspected Al-Qaeda militants were killed in Yemen in three alleged US drone strikes. In one, a drone targeted a group of suspected militants, killing four of them in Wadi Al-Jadd in the southern region of Hadramaut. In Marib and Hadramaut Governorates, two suspected drone strikes killed 10 militants.⁵⁷ Subsequently, seven militants were killed when six missiles destroyed two vehicles in Shabwa Governorate.⁵⁸ On 11 August, three suspected Al-Qaeda militants were killed by a US drone strike in Yemen's southern Lahj Governorate.⁵⁹ On 13 August, two militants were killed in a suspected US drone missile strike in Shabwa Governorate.⁶⁰ On 30 August, six militants were killed in a suspected US drone attack. Qaed al-Thahab, a senior leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in Baitha Governorate, was among those killed. According to authorities, eight additional missiles were launched at vehicles from two drones.⁶¹

On 11 August, in an attack on the Balhaf Terminal, Yemen's only liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal, which is located in Shabwa Governorate, suspected Al-Qaeda militants killed five soldiers before fleeing. Authorities said the gunmen infiltrated a checkpoint at the entrance to the Balhaf LNG Terminal, where they killed one soldier. They then

⁵⁴ AFP, "Syria car bomb kills Hama governor", 25 August 2013.

⁵⁵ AFP, "Al-Qaeda plot in Yemen foiled", 7 August 2013.

⁵⁶ New York Times, "Yemen, on Alert for Terrorism, Says It Foiled a Qaeda Plot", 7 August 2013.

⁵⁷ BBC, "Yemen: 'Militants' die in fresh drone strikes", 9 August 2013.

⁵⁸ Global Post, "Yemen claims to foil major Al Qaeda plot", 7 August 2013.

⁵⁹ CNN, "Yemen officials: U.S. drone strike kills three militants", 11 August 2013.

⁶⁰ Reuters, "Two suspected al Qaeda militants killed in Yemen drone strike", 13 August 2013.

⁶¹ CNN, "Sources: Drone strikes in Yemen kill 6, including senior AQAP leaders", 30 August 2013.

entered a cargo container and shot dead four more troops who had been sleeping there before managing to flee in a vehicle. The attack was reportedly in retaliation for an escalation in suspected US drone strikes.⁶²

On 31 August, unidentified assailants opened fire on the motorcade of Yemen's Prime Minister Mohammed Salem Basindawa in an apparent assassination attempt.⁶³ Ali al-Sarari, an adviser to the prime minister, reported that no one died in the attack. Basindawa's car was armored. The gunmen fled in their four-wheel drive vehicle. No group took responsibility for the attack.⁶⁴

North America

United States

On 4 August, the US temporarily closed 21 of its embassies in the Middle East and North Africa due to intelligence of an Al-Qaeda attack. Following the shutdown, Canada closed its embassy in Bangladesh, and Britain, France and Germany closed their embassies in Yemen.⁶⁵ The US State Department also issued a worldwide travel warning to American citizens.⁶⁶ On 6 August, it was reported that the intelligence that led to these measures emanated from the interception of a secret message between Al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahri and Nasser al-Wahishi, the head of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP); the two men were apparently discussing plans for a major terror attack in Yemen or North Africa.⁶⁷ The exact details of the threats they discussed were not made public. Multiple major prison breaks in the region in July 2013 apparently also contributed to the decision to shut down diplomatic installations. The prison breaks, in which hundreds of terrorists walked free, also led Interpol to issue a global security alert. The Al-Qaeda plot may have been meant to retaliate for the assassination of AQAP Deputy Emir Said Ali al-Shihri, whose death AQAP confirmed in July 2013.⁶⁸

On 8 August, a US military court found Major Nidal Hasan, a former US Army psychiatrist guilty of 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder. On 5 November 2009, Major Hasan opened fire at Fort Hood's Soldier Readiness Processing Center, where troops were getting medical checkups before deploying to

⁶² Reuters, "Gunmen kill five Yemeni troops guarding LNG plant: official", 11 August 2013.

⁶³ BBC, "Yemen violence: PM Basindwa unhurt in assassination bid", 31 August 2013.

⁶⁴ AFP, "Aide: Yemen's PM escapes assassination attempt", 31 August 2013.

⁶⁵ BBC, "UK embassy in Yemen to close amid global terror alerts", 3 August 2013.

⁶⁶ Guardian, "Interpol issues global alert over al-Qaida-linked prison breakouts", 3 August 2013.

⁶⁷ AP, "Al-Qaeda chief's message triggered embassy closures", 6 August 2013.

⁶⁸ Washington Post, "U.S. issues worldwide travel alert amid terrorism fears", 2 August 2013.

Afghanistan.⁶⁹ Major Hasan allegedly acted on behalf of Al-Qaeda. On 28 August, he was sentenced to die by lethal injection. However, because of the lengthy appeals process in the US military justice system, it may take years before he is executed.⁷⁰ Hasan insisted on representing himself at the trial; this led to certain problems with the military defense attorneys who were ordered to help him. Death sentences are rare in the military. No American soldier has been executed since 1961.⁷¹

On 27 August, Olaniyi Babafemi (aka Ayatollah Mustapha), 32, was indicted in a US court for providing material support to AQAP and for unlawfully using firearms.⁷² On 6 August, Nigeria requested court approval of his extradition to the US.⁷³ Babafemi did not challenge his extradition at a hearing before the High Court in the capital, Abuja.⁷⁴ According to court documents, Babafemi was accused by both US and Nigerian authorities of traveling to Yemen with members of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in 2010 and 2011, and of receiving \$8,600 to return to Nigeria and recruit English-speaking radicals. He allegedly attended training camps under the guidance of the late Anwar al-Awlaki and Samir Khan, whom he assisted in AQAP's English-language media operations (including publication of the popular magazine *Inspire*).⁷⁵ If convicted, Babafemi faces at least 10 years in a US jail.⁷⁶

On 30 August, Saynab Hussein, 23, pleaded guilty to lying to a federal grand jury about raising money to support Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen. She gave the false testimony at a June 2009 grand jury proceeding examining a "government conspiracy to commit murder". If convicted, she faces a maximum sentence of five years. Although Hussein is a permanent resident of the United States, she could be deported. The US Attorney's Office filed a notice saying that Hussein's case is related to that of Abdifatah Isse, who was sentenced to three years in prison for traveling to Somalia in support of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.⁷⁷

⁶⁹ Washington Post, "Nidal Hasan convicted of Fort Hood killings", 28 August 2013.

⁷⁰ BBC, "Nidal Hasan gets death penalty for Fort Hood rampage", 28 August 2013.

⁷¹ AP, "Fort Hood gunman Maj. Nidal Hasan sentenced to death", 28 August 2013.

⁷² Guardian, "U.S. court tries Nigerian al-Qaeda member, Babafemi", 29 August 2013.

⁷³ Reuters, "Nigeria seeks extradition of al Qaeda suspect to US", 6 August 2013.

⁷⁴ BBC, "Nigeria al-Qaeda suspect to be extradited to US", 28 August 2013.

⁷⁵ FBI, "Member of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, al Qaeda's Yemeni Affiliate, Indicted in Brooklyn Federal Court", 27 August 2013.

⁷⁶ Reuters, "Nigeria seeks extradition of al Qaeda suspect to US", 6 August 2013.

⁷⁷ Star Tribune, "Woman on Charges of Al-shabaab Fundraising Pleads Guilty to Perjury", 30 August 2013.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 3 August, Afghan security forces partially foiled a suicide attack against the Indian consulate in Jalalabad. Nine people were nevertheless killed when the attackers detonated their explosives short of their ultimate target.⁷⁸ According to authorities, two militants drove up to a checkpoint 100 meters from the consulate gate in a Toyota Corolla, and began shooting. As security officials neared, a third attacker detonated a bomb.⁷⁹ Ahmedzia Abdulzai, a spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar Province, said that all three attackers were killed.⁸⁰ The majority of the victims were children who had been attending religious classes at a mosque proximate to the consulate.⁸¹ Indian officials report that no Indian citizens were hurt. The explosion left a large crater in the road and damaged nearby houses and shops. No group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed the Taliban.⁸²

On 5 August, four people were killed and more than 20 were wounded in an explosion in Kandahar. According to authorities, a bomb was hidden in a market stall cart and detonated.⁸³ Police said that a remote-control device was found in the pocket of one of the casualties.⁸⁴ No group claimed responsibility for the attack.⁸⁵

On 8 August, a bomb planted in a graveyard in Nangarhar Province killed 14 members of one family during Eid Al-Fitr, the holiday that marks the end of the holy Muslim month of Ramadan.⁸⁶ The family had been visiting the grave of a relative, a tribal elder named Haji Khayali who was an employee of a security company and who was killed by the Taliban earlier this year. In Afghanistan, it is customary for families to visit the graves of loved ones during Eid Al-Fitr and other holidays. It was unclear why this particular family was targeted. No group took responsibility for the attack.⁸⁷

On 17 August, a series of attacks in Afghanistan killed 20 people. Ten people were killed when a group of insurgents attacked a police checkpoint in the country's western Herat

⁷⁸ PTI, "Suicide blast near Indian Consulate in Afghanistan's Jalalabad kills 8 children", 3 August 2013.

⁷⁹ Reuters, "Attack on Indian mission in Afghanistan raises specter of regional struggle", 3 August 2013.

⁸⁰ CNN, "Nine children die in attack near Indian consulate in Afghanistan", 3 August 2013.

⁸¹ The Hindu, "Afghans foil attack on Indian mission", 4 August 2013.

⁸² BBC, "Afghan attack targets Indian mission", 3 August 2013.

⁸³ CNN, "4 dead in Afghan car bombing", 5 August 2013.

⁸⁴ Voice of Russia, "Four civilians killed, 22 injured in Afghan bombing", 5 August 2013.

⁸⁵ BBC, "Afghan market blast 'kills four' in Kandahar", 5 August 2013.

⁸⁶ Reuters, "Cemetery bomb kills 14 in east Afghanistan", 8 August 2013.

⁸⁷ BBC, "Afghanistan graveyard bomb blast kills 14 women and children", 8 August 2013

Province. After exchanging fire with police at the checkpoint in Karokh district, killing one officer, the militants opened fire on a nearby tent housing construction workers for a road-building project, killing nine people. In southern Helmand Province, eight people were killed, three of them women, by a roadside mine while walking home in Sangin district. Five others – three children, a woman and a man – were killed in a roadside bombing in Marjah district. A suicide bomber killed two people and injured three in western Farah Province.⁸⁸

Indonesia

On 9 August, Indonesia's elite anti-terrorism squad arrested Muhammad Syaiful Syahbani, 26. He was accused of financing an alleged plot to attack the Burmese Embassy in protest against that country's treatment of Muslims. He was arrested in Yogyakarta, a province on Indonesia's main island of Java. A second man was detained for questioning, but his connection to Syahbani was not made public. Police spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Agus Rianto said that the interrogation of several other alleged terrorist group members had led police to Syahbani.⁸⁹

India

On 18 August, Abdul Karim Tunda (aka Abdul Quddoos), 70, one of India's 20 most-wanted terrorists, was arrested at the India-Nepal border and brought to Delhi for questioning. Police said Tunda was wanted in connection with over 20 attacks perpetrated in Delhi in 1994 and 1996-1998. He was also accused of being linked to a series of blasts in Mumbai in 1993, which killed at least 250 people.⁹⁰ Tunda was on a list of suspected parties to the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which India handed over to Pakistan.⁹¹

On 29 August, Indian Mujahedin (IM) founding member Yasin Bhatkal was arrested at Raxaul, near the border with Nepal, after evading arrest for some time. Another IM operative, Asadullah Akhtar (aka Haddi), was reportedly also detained. Yasin was linked to several high-profile terrorism cases, including German Bakery blasts in Pune, where he was allegedly captured on CCTV footage; a 2010 Bangalore stadium bombing; and

⁸⁸ CNN, "Afghanistan: 20 killed in militant bomb, gun attacks", 17 August 2013.

⁸⁹ AP, "Indonesian police arrest suspected militant", 12 August 2013

⁹⁰ PTI, "Syed Abdul Karim Tunda: One of India's most wanted terrorist, arrested by Delhi Police", 18 August 2013.

⁹¹ AFP, "Indian police capture alleged top terrorist", 18 August 2013

Dilsukhnagar explosions in Hyderabad. He was also sought in the assassination of Bharatiya Janata Party legislator U. Chittarajan in 1996.⁹²

Pakistan

On 7 August, a bomb exploded in Karachi killing 11 people, including several children, and injuring 24 others. Police said the bomb was hidden in a motorcycle and detonated – apparently remotely – outside a football field during a local tournament.⁹³ The target of the attack was believed to have been Javed Naghori, a provincial minister, who was at the match awarding prizes. He escaped unhurt.⁹⁴

On 8 August, a suicide bombing at a policeman's funeral in Quetta killed 30 people, 21 of them police officers and one of them a senior police officer, and wounded 60 others. Children attending the funeral were among the dead and wounded.⁹⁵ Authorities said the attacker was wearing a suicide vest packed with ball bearings and shrapnel.⁹⁶ Shahidullah Shahid, a spokesman for Tehrik-i-Taliban, claimed responsibility for the attack and threatened further attacks against police.⁹⁷

On 20 August, security forces in Quetta arrested 10 people and seized 100 tons of explosives⁹⁸ at a warehouse that was used to store and assemble bombs. The police were led to the warehouse by two men whom had arrested the previous day for driving a truck carrying 15 tons of potassium chlorate.⁹⁹ Indeed stocks of potassium chlorate and ammonium chlorate, were found at the warehouse; police relate that these chemicals were used in two bombings carried out in predominantly Shi'ite areas of Quetta earlier in 2013.¹⁰⁰ According to the authorities, some 80 drums of explosive materials were in storage at the warehouse, and would have exploded had a detonator been attached to them. No group was identified as owning the cache of bomb-making equipment.¹⁰¹

⁹² New York Times, "Leader of Terrorist Group Is Arrested, India Says", 29 August 2013.

⁹³ VOA, "11 Killed in Karachi Bombing", 7 August 2013.

⁹⁴ BBC, "Pakistan bomb at Karachi football match kills 11", 7 August 2013.

⁹⁵ Reuters, "Suicide bomber kills 30 at policeman's funeral in Pakistan", 8 August 2013.

⁹⁶ BBC, "Pakistan Quetta suicide bomber kills at least 28 people", 8 August 2013.

⁹⁷ Dawn, "Suicide attack on Quetta funeral kills at least 30", 8 August 2013.

⁹⁸ BBC, "Pakistan seizes 100 tonnes of bomb-making chemicals", 20 August 2013.

⁹⁹ Telegraph, "Huge cache of explosives seized in Pakistan", 21 August 2013.

¹⁰⁰ RIA Novosti, "Bomb-Making Chemicals Seized in Pakistan – Report", 21 August 2013.

¹⁰¹ BBC, "Pakistan seizes 100 tonnes of bomb-making chemicals", 20 August 2013.

Philippines

On 5 August, eight people were killed and 40 others were injured in a car bombing in Cotabato City. At least four vehicles were damaged in the attack.¹⁰² Authorities said a vehicle parked on a busy street near a hospital and a school exploded just before iftar – the meal that breaks the day’s fast during Ramadan. The attack also ignited a fire that destroyed a nearby mortuary and tire repair shop.¹⁰³ On 6 August, authorities released photos to the media of three suspects; however their identities were not revealed to the public. Although no group took responsibility for the attack, authorities blamed the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), which had threatened attacks against government targets in the past. In 2011, the BIFF split from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which is currently engaged in peace talks with the government.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰² Inquirer, “Cotabato City declares month-long mourning for 8 bombing fatalities”, 8 August 2013.

¹⁰³ Al-Jazeera, “Deadly blast hits southern Philippines”, 5 August 2013.

¹⁰⁴ MILF, “Cotabato bombing: 9-year-old girl among 8 dead in Islamist-torn Philippine city”, 6 August 2013.

Appendix A

Spotlight on The Abdullah Azzam Brigades (AAB)

Aliases

Brigades of Abdullah Azzam (BAA); Battalion of Yusuf al-Uyayri; The Harakat Shabaab Al-Mujahidin; Tanzim Al-Qaida fi Balad Ash-Sham Wa Ard Al-Kinanah; Al-Qaeda in the Levant and Egypt; Battalion of Ziad al-Jarrah; Kata'ib Shaid Abdullah Azzam; Kita'ib Shuhada Abullah Azzam; The Martyr Abdullah Azzam Brigades; Abdullah Azzam Martyrs Brigades; Al-Sham Spring.

National Affiliations

Lebanon, Egypt, Syria

Background

The Abdullah Azzam Brigades (AAB) were established in 2009 as a militant organization affiliated with global jihad and Al-Qaeda, and tasked with hitting targets in the Levant and throughout the Middle East.¹⁰⁵ The AAB has relied primarily on rocket attacks against Israeli civilians, and is responsible for firing numerous rockets from Lebanon into Israeli territory, which have targeted population centers. Examples of AAB attacks include the 11 September 2009 double rocket attack on Nahariya, and an April 2011 rocket attack on Ashkelon.¹⁰⁶ In July 2009, the AAB announced its establishment by releasing a video statement claiming responsibility for a February 2009 rocket attack against Israel. The AAB also operates from the Sinai Peninsula, and has attacked targets in Egypt and Jordan as well as in Israel.¹⁰⁷ The AAB has repeatedly articulated its intent to attack against Western interests in the Middle East. For example, in 2010, the group threatened to kidnap American and British tourists in the Arabian Peninsula.¹⁰⁸



The exact size and number of operatives in the AAB is unclear. It is also not clear who funds the AAB. Since 2009, the group has advocated for the overthrow of the Saudi

¹⁰⁵ Reuters, "Factbox: Abdullah Azzam Brigades and Japanese supertanker", 21 November 2012 .

¹⁰⁶ United State Department, "Country Reports on Terrorism: Foreign Terrorist Organizations" Update June 2013.

¹⁰⁷ Reuters, "Factbox: Abdullah Azzam Brigades and Japanese supertanker", 21 November 2010

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

Arabian government and has called for an uprising in Lebanon. Of course, the AAB has voiced support for Syrian rebels.¹⁰⁹

Ideology

The AAB is apparently affiliated with Al-Qaeda Central and Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), and follows Salafist ideology. It is named for Dr. Abdullah Yousef Azzam, a Palestinian national who joined the Muslim Brotherhood while he was studying in Egypt. Azzam's ideology developed into a radical Islamism, which is believed to have influenced Osama Bin Laden. Azzam, who also fought alongside Islamist militants in Afghanistan, was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan in 1989.

History and Structure

The AAB was founded in 2009 by Saleh bin Abdullah bin Saleh al-Qarawi. It is divided into two branches: the Ziyad al-Jarrah Battalions and the Yusuf al-'Uyayri Battalions. The Ziyad al-Jarrah Battalions are based in the Palestinian refugee camps of Lebanon – particularly the Ein Al-Hilweh Camp – and are named after [Ziad al Jarrah](#), a Lebanese citizen who was one of the masterminds of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the US. The Yusuf al-'Uyayri Battalions are based in the Arabian Peninsula and are named for [Yusef al-Ayeri](#), the slain founder of Al-Qaeda in Saudi Arabia.¹¹⁰ The AAB's current emir, Majid bin Muhammad al-Majid, has his base of operations in the Lebanese port city of Sidon.¹¹¹

On 24 May 2012, the United States designated the AAB as a foreign terrorist organization. The consequences of this designation include a prohibition against knowingly providing material support or resources to, or engaging in transactions with, the AAB; and the freezing of all AAB assets (including property and interest in property) that are in the US or under the control of US citizens.¹¹²

Since 2009, the link between the AAB, which is an active player in global jihad, and the senior leadership of Al-Qaeda has become apparent.¹¹³ The AAB regularly publicizes its propaganda on jihadist Web sites such as Ansar1, and through the Al-Fajr Media Center. In keeping with its ideology, the AAB has championed the subversion of the Saudi Arabian monarchy; urged public insurgency in Lebanon; trumpeted the need to barrage the Jews; and articulated its patronage of Syria's rebels. The AAB has apparently

¹⁰⁹ Long War Journal, "Abdullah Azzam Brigades denies responsibility for Damascus suicide attacks", November 2011

¹¹⁰ US Department of State, "Terrorist Designations of the Abdallah Azzam Brigades", 24 May 2012

¹¹¹ US Department of State, "Terrorist Designations of the Abdallah Azzam Brigades", 24 May 2012

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ Reuters, "Factbox: Abdullah Azzam Brigades and Japanese supertanker", 21 November 2010

established and fostered smaller affiliates in Syria, Pakistan, Jordan, the Gaza Strip, Egypt and the Arabian Peninsula.

Attacks Perpetrated by the AAB

The most significant attack claimed by the AAB was the 27 July 2010 suicide attack against the Japanese-owned oil tanker M/V M. Star in the Strait of Hormuz; it was perpetrated by a "martyr" [shahid] identified as Ayyub al-Taishan. Although the attack caused only minor damage to the tanker's starboard side, it raised serious concerns over the AAB's capacity to reach targets at sea, and its interest in maritime jihad.¹¹⁴

Attacks perpetrated or claimed by the AAB typically involve relatively sophisticated bombs, meticulous planning, and coordinated or simultaneous attacks. The AAB is responsible for at least two devastating attacks on tourist sites in the Sinai Peninsula. The following are among the most notable attacks attributable to the AAB:

- 7 October 2004: Three simultaneous explosions at Egyptian resorts in the Sinai Peninsula killed 34 tourists, 12 of them Israeli citizens, and wounded 171 others. The AAB claimed responsibility for the attack using its alias "The Battalions of the Martyr Abdullah Azzam, Al-Qaeda in the Levant and Egypt"; however, their claim has never been verified.¹¹⁵
- July 2005: The AAB claimed it attacked Sharm El-Sheikh, a resort town in the Sinai Peninsula. Specifically, two car bombs exploded near hotels and shopping areas, killing 67 people and wounding more than 200. Nearly a year later, a series of car bombs in Sharm El-Sheikh killed 88 people and wounded 200 others. Responsibility for the attack was contested between Al-Qaeda in the Levant and Egypt (an alias of the AAB) and the Mujahedi Misr (Holy Warriors of Egypt). Given the similarities between this attack and the October 2004 attack cited above, it is likely that the AAB was indeed responsible.¹¹⁶
- April 2005: A suicide bomber targeted foreign tourists near Egypt's most famous museum in Cairo, while his sister and girlfriend opened fire on a tourist bus. The attack killed three people. Again, both the Mujahedi Misr and the AAB claimed responsibility for the attack.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁴CBS, "UAE: Al Qaeda Responsible for Japanese Tanker Attack", 6 August 2013. "

¹¹⁵ Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Terror bombings Hit Taba and Ras a-Satan in Sinai", 10 October 2004

¹¹⁶ CNN, "Bombs kill scores in Egyptian resort town", 23 July 2005

¹¹⁷ Reuters, "Factbox: Abdullah Azzam Brigades and Japanese supertanker", 21 November 2010

- 19 August 2005: The AAB claimed a failed attempt to fire rockets at two US warships moored in Jordan's Aqaba port. The rockets instead hit a warehouse and a hospital, killing one Jordanian soldier.¹¹⁸
- 9 November 2005: The AAB perpetrated a series of coordinated, simultaneous terrorist attacks against three hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing six people and injuring 200 others.
- September 2009: One branch of the AAB claimed responsibility for firing two Katyusha rockets from southern Lebanon at the northern Israeli coastal town of Nahariya.¹¹⁹
- October 2009: A rocket was fired from the vicinity of Houla, a Shi'ite village in Lebanon, into Israeli territory. Rockets were again fired on 27 October, but landed in a field and produced no casualties. On 28 October, four more rockets were discovered at the ready at the launching site.
- April 2011: Grad rockets and homemade missiles were fired at Ashkelon in southern Israel, causing property damage but no casualties. Their target had been the military base at Zikim.¹²⁰
- 5 August 2012: AAB militants tried to storm into Israel at the Karem Abu Salem checkpoint, killing 16 Egyptian policemen.¹²¹
- 18 July 2013: The AAB targets Hezbollah and Iranian interests in Lebanon, by detonating a roadside bomb in Bekaa, targeting a Hezbollah convoy carrying Hezbollah and Iranian militants in Majdal Anjar, and detonating two more roadside bombings in Bekaa, which injured three civilians.¹²²
- August 2013: Four missiles were launched from the vicinity of the Rashidieh Palestinian Refugee Camp in southern Lebanon at Israeli interests near Acre. Two of the rockets struck Israeli communities, without producing fatalities. Israel's "Iron Dome" anti-missile battery intercepted the third missile, a short-range Katyusha. The fourth missile landed outside Israeli territory.¹²³
- 22 August 2013: Alleged AAB militants attacked two buses in Rafah, killing 25 Egyptian policemen.¹²⁴

¹¹⁸ Reuters, "Factbox: Abdullah Azzam Brigades and Japanese supertanker", 21 November 2010

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Long War Journal, "Abdullah Azzam Brigades names leader, advises against attacks in Syria's cities", 27 June 2012.

¹²¹ Al Jazeera, "Egypt border guards killed in Sinai attack", 05 August 2012.

¹²² Naharnet, "Abdullah Azzam Brigades Claim Majdal Anjar Blast, Vow to Turn Bekaa

¹²³ Washington Post, "Four Rockets fired into Israel from Lebanon", 22 August 2013.

¹²⁴ AP, "Egypt: police officers killed by militants in Sinai", 19 August 2013

Leadership

Saleh al-Qarawi (aka Nijm al-Khayr), is a senior operative and leader of the AAB. Al-Qarawi was born in 1982 in Barida, Saudi Arabia, near Al-Qaseem. In 2011, the US State Department deemed Saleh al-Qarawi a Specially Designated Global Terrorist under section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224. He is currently wanted for extradition by the Saudi Arabian government for participating in extremist activities abroad. He is also the subject of an Interpol Orange Notice issued on 25 March 2009, for activities related to terrorism.¹²⁵

Ibrahim Suleiman Hamad al-Hablain (aka Abu Jabal) is an explosives expert and operative for the AAB. In 2011, the US State Department has also deemed al-Hablain a Specially Designated Global Terrorist under section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224. Al-Hablain is wanted for extradition by the Saudi Arabian government for participating in extremist activities abroad. He is also the subject of an Interpol Orange Notice issued on February 10, 2009, for activities related to terrorism.¹²⁶

Majid bin Muhammad al Majid, currently the emir of the AAB, is the third Saudi known to be among the group's upper echelons. He is on the Saudi Arabian government's list of 85 Most Wanted Terrorists for his ties to Al-Qaeda. Majid has yet to be designated a terrorist by the US State Department.¹²⁷

Nijm al-Bardawi is a senior AAB operative.

Video Statements

The AAB releases propaganda on as a matter of routine, primarily over the Internet. See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eZYVADRqB0>;
<http://ansar1.info/showthread.php?p=171508#post171508>;
<http://jihadology.net/?s=abdullah+azzam+brigade&submit=>.

Relevant Additional Articles

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"Interview with Wanted Fugitive Saleh al-Qarawi, Commander of the Abdullah Azzam Brigades", *Flashpoint Partners Intelligence*, 3 April 2010

¹²⁵ US Department of State, "Terrorist Designation of Saleh al-Qarawi" 15 December 2011.

¹²⁶ US Department of State, [Suleiman Hamad Al-Hablain](#) Terrorist Designation of Ibrahim Suleiman Hamad Al-Hablain", 22 November 2011
Long War Journal, "Abdullah Azzam Brigades names leader, advises against attacks in Syria's cities", 27 June 2012¹²⁷

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